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**LAC-IEE-05-40**

## **ENVIRONMENTAL THRESHOLD DECISION**

<b>Activity Location:</b>	Haiti
<b>Activity Title:</b>	Special Objective 7—Tropical Storm Reconstruction Program (amends LAC-IEE-04-79)
<b>Activity Number:</b>	521-0220
<b>Life of Activity Funding:</b>	US \$34.08 million
<b>Life of Activity:</b>	17 Nov 2004 –30 Jun 2007
<b>IEE Prepared by:</b>	Lionel Poitevien, MEO, USAID/Haiti
<b>Recommended Threshold Decision:</b>	Categorical Exclusion/Negative Determination with Conditions
<b>Bureau Threshold Decision:</b>	Concur with Recommendation

### **Comments:**

This amends LAC-IEE-04-79 to extend the activity beyond the original 12-month period to June 30, 2007. The original Environmental Threshold Decision of **Categorical Exclusion** and **Negative Determination with Conditions** remain in effect until the end of the activity as originally stated, as the nature of the activity and amount of funding remain the same. All of the original conditions continue to apply with the addition of the following:

- The main implementer of the activity will submit a report by June 30, 2006 and on June 30, 2007 summarizing the compliance with the environmental conditions stated in this ETD and LAC-IEE-04-79. The report will be approved by the

Mission Environmental Officer (MEO) and a copy will be sent to the Bureau Environmental Officer (BEO).

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Victor H. Bullen  
Bureau Environmental Officer  
Bureau for Latin America & the Caribbean

Copy to: Erna Kerst, Mission Director, USAID/Haiti

Copy to: Mike Kerst, Food Security, Karen Poe Policy  
Coordination and Program Support,  
USAID/Haiti

Copy to: Lionel Poitevien, MEO, USAID/Haiti

Copy to: Michael Donald, REA, USAID/DR

Copy to: Beth Cypser, LAC/CAR

Copy to: Gerald Barth, LAC/CAR

Copy to: IEE File

Attachment: IEE

File: IEE05-40 ETD(HA Trop Storm Reconstruction TSRP amend IEE-04-79).doc

**SUPPLEMENTAL  
INITIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EXAMINATION  
Amendment # 1 to LAC-IEE-04-79**

**Project Location:** Haiti

**Project Title:** Special Objective 7—Tropical Storm  
Reconstruction Program  
(amends LAC-IEE-04-79)

**Funding:** US \$34.08 million

**Life of Special Objective:** June 30, 2007

**IEE Prepared by:** Lionel Poitevien, MEO  
  
USAID/Haiti

**Recommended Threshold** Categorical Exclusion/Negative Determination  
with Conditions

**Decision:**

**CONCURRENCE:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mike Kerst, Chief  
Food Security and Humanitarian Assistance  
USAID/Haiti

\_\_\_\_\_  
Karen Poe, Chief  
Policy Coordination and Program Support  
USAID/Haiti

\_\_\_\_\_  
Erna Kerst, Mission Director  
USAID/Haiti

**CLEARANCE:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael Donald,  
Caribbean Regional Environmental Advisor

**APPROVAL:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Victor Bullen, Bureau Environment Officer  
Latin America and Caribbean

### **Background and Purpose of amendment**

On September 17-18, 2004, Tropical Storm Jeanne brought devastating floods which claimed the lives of nearly 3,000 Haitians, injured over 2,600, and impacted an estimated 300,000 in the town of Gonaïves and its environs.

In October 2004, the US Congress passed a supplemental appropriation, which allocated and \$ 34.8 million to Haiti to fund the Tropical Storm Recovery Program (TSRP).

This program, which seeks to provide more secure lives for Haitians affected by devastating tropical storm flooding in 2004, has two categories of activities: (1) targeted communities revitalized and (2) targeted rural areas revitalized. Under the former, activities are directed at both urban and rural areas which sustained heavy loss of life and damage to public use infrastructure (e.g., schools and health facilities), sites and services (e.g., roads, water and sanitation systems, and urban drainage), and loss of households assets (i.e., animals, incomes from small farmers and micro businesses). Under the latter, the program addresses urgently needed agricultural rehabilitation and environmental stabilization to the surrounding hillsides, irrigation system repair, riverbed clean-up, watershed education, and a lack of knowledge and tools for dealing with disaster. Activities were designed to dovetail with the later stages of OFDA-funded relief and reconstruction efforts, and were initiated in early January 2005.

The first eight months of the program have been adversely affected by worsening economic and security conditions, political tension, and weather. Increased insecurity has led to a significant investment of partners' resources to take precautionary measures to protect staff and activity sites. Insecurity has also negatively impacted the implementation of infrastructure technical studies as the private sector has coped with restrictions in movement and activity. A customs strike in Port-au-Prince earlier this year stalled the clearance of construction materials through the port, which has ultimately slowed the execution of large-scale rehabilitation activities, including the repair of roads, bridges, and water systems. Ongoing political tension in target areas has hindered the community organization process. Finally, irrigation rehabilitation and other activities have been delayed due to the unusually heavy rainy season in the area north of Gonaïves.

Of the total of \$34 million that has been obligated for the tropical storm recovery effort, \$6.6 million has been disbursed and another \$4.6 million has accrued leaving a pipeline of \$23 million. Despite the difficult conditions existing in Haiti, the program has realized a number of achievements thus far. For example, to date:

- 13 kilometers of key roads have been rehabilitated in the affected areas;
- 5.6 kilometers of drains have been cleaned and repaired;
- 30,085 cubic meters of mud have been removed from urban streets and channels;
- 4,523 acres have been protected by soil and water conservation measures;

- 4,056 acres of irrigated farmland have been restored to production; and
- 17,563 people have been employed for a month in cash-for-work activities in target areas.

Although the tropical storm recovery program is progressing, it is unlikely that target indicators will be met under the original one-year timeframe.

A no-cost extension of the tropical storm SpO through June 30, 2007 would permit USAID to continue to implement key recovery efforts and meet the target indicators originally established under the program. The extension would enable partners to address security concerns and project setbacks, ensure a better quality product, and cope with the delays that have resulted from the customs strike and heavy rains in the target areas. Additionally, the extension would mitigate for the increase in insecurity that is expected to result from the national elections now scheduled to be held in November-December 2005. The extension would also allow for a smooth phase-out of activities that could take place during the new Haitian government's installation.

### **Environmental Impact and Mitigation Measures**

In November 2004, the IEE for the TSRP was issued (Re LAC-IEE-04-79) to authorize the implementation of the program. A *Categorical Exclusion* was recommended for activities which involve the provision of technical assistance, education and training, and social and institutional capacity building, which have no significant impact on the environment.

A *Negative Determination with Conditions* was recommended for activities under IR1 and 2 which involve the repair of irrigation and water/sanitation systems; improvement of urban drainage; rehabilitation of public buildings; implementation of hillside stabilization measures; and municipal cleanup. Significant adverse environmental impacts were not foreseeable from the implementation of these activities if the mitigation measures outlined in this IEE are used. Partners were responsible for identifying potential minor impacts and appropriate mitigation measures for each reconstruction activity. Partners will be required to submit for USAID review activity monitoring protocols with the mitigation measures to be applied.

With the expansion of the PACD through June 2007, the existing IEE needs to be amended to take into account the change. This amendment to LAC-IEE-04-79 is being submitted in accordance with the Agency's environmental regulations (22 CFR216) and applies to all activities for which environmental documentation is still outstanding.

Per the existing IEE, below are the mitigation measures that were to be applied to the appropriate activities under the TSRP:

1. All implementing partners must ensure that the appropriate safety tools, equipment, and training are made available to all community members

participating in rehabilitation and cleanup activities.

2. Community workers will receive training in the types of waste that may exist in the wastestream (e.g. solid waste, organic waste, recyclables, hazardous waste, and medical waste) and the characteristics and hazards that are associated with each type of waste. Workers will be instructed not to handle special wastes that appear to be hazardous or medical in nature, or that have questionable characteristics. The primary partner is responsible for providing continual on-site technical advice to workers, for reserving such materials for collection entities that specialize in the disposal of these types of wastes, and for ensuring that no hazardous wastes are disposed of in dump sites. The primary partner must also provide a plan for the management of special wastes prior to beginning drainage canal clean-up and recycling activities.
3. Individual projects under the public building rehabilitation, road repair, water and sanitation systems rehabilitation, and irrigation systems rehabilitation will require a site-specific environmental review for each construction project, to be approved by the Mission Environment Officer (MEO). Environmental reviews should consist of a description of the planned action and the site, and a matrix detailing all expected environmental impacts and corresponding mitigation measures. The Cognizant Technical Officer (CTO) is responsible for ensuring that partners submit environmental reviews for approval before the project is initiated.
4. The LAC guidelines will be incorporated into project design, implementation and monitoring, where applicable.
5. The manual “Low-Volume Roads Engineering” by Gordon Keller and James Sherar will be used, where appropriate, for design, implementation and monitoring of road rehabilitation projects.
6. Primary partners shall ensure that relevant environmental mitigation and monitoring measures established in this Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) be routinely incorporated into all subgrant and subcontractual agreements with local partners and institutions.
7. Primary partners shall include in semi-annual reports their efforts to summarize environmental monitoring efforts. All mitigation measures in the table shall be tracked for implementation and effectiveness.
8. All local partners involved with the activities will be supplied with a copy of the mitigation measures for relevant activities outlined in this IEE in Creole and/or French.
9. The CTO and MEO will conduct spot checks to ensure that the primary partners implement the measures set forth under this IEE (as the security situation permits).

10. The following language will be included in all contracts and agreements developed under this program:

“The Grantees and/or Contractors agree that all activities funded under this Agreement will comply with all environmental requirements applicable to USAID-financed activities, including those set forth in Title 22 of the United States Code of Federal Regulations Part 216.”

The mitigation measures specified in above and in the attached table should alleviate any significant environmental concerns associated with the proposed program under SpO7. It is therefore concluded that the TSRP can be implemented in an environmentally-sound and sustainable manner in full accordance with all relevant USAID and U.S. Government environmental policies and regulations.

Overall, these Mitigation Measures have been implemented by the partners. Community members participating in rehabilitation and clean-up activities have been trained and provided with the necessary safety tools and equipments. Environmental reviews for most individual projects have been submitted.

It’s worth mentioning however that the security situation has not been always favorable, which prevented the MEO and the CTOs to conduct periodic spot checks to ensure implementation of Mitigation Measures. As the political and social situation eases, these spot checks will be conducted on a regular basis.

### **Recommendations for Threshold Decision**

The EDT requirements for LAC-IEE-04-79 continue to apply, namely:

Pursuant to 22 CFR 216.2(c)(2)(i), (v) and (xiv), a *Categorical Exclusion* is recommended for activities which involve the provision of technical assistance, education and training, and social and institutional capacity building, which have no significant impact on the environment.

A *Negative Determination with Conditions* is recommended for activities under IR1 and 2 which involve the repair of irrigation and water/sanitation systems; improvement of urban drainage; rehabilitation of public buildings; implementation of hillside stabilization measures; and municipal cleanup. Significant adverse environmental impacts are not foreseeable from the implementation of these activities if the mitigation measures outlined in this IEE are used. Partners are responsible for identifying potential minor impacts and appropriate mitigation measures for each reconstruction activity. Partners will be required to submit for USAID review activity monitoring protocols with the mitigation measures to be applied.